

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 USIA-15 /026 W

----- 123576

R 091332Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3773

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0577

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SF

SUBJECT: DURATION OF VALIDITY OF IV GRANTS

REF: STATE 027774

1. WHILE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS LONG-STANDING CU DESIRE TO KEEP GRANTS " CURRENT" BY HAVING IV GRANTEES TRAVEL IN SAME FISCAL YEAR, IT SEEMS THAT PRACTICAL EFFECTS NEW FALLOUT PROCEDURES IS TO CANCEL GAO RULING THAT PERMITS GRANT VALIDITY TO EXTEND YEAR BEYOND FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH GRANT IS MADE. FISCAL YEAR TRAVEL REQUIREMENT, COMBINED WITH TRADITIONAL LATENESS OF CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, GREATLY CONDENSES LEAD TIME POSTS HAVE IN WHICH TO INVITE APPROVED NOMINEES AND GIVE THEM TIME TO ARRANGE ABSENCE FOR TRIP TO U.S.

2. THIS AND PROBABLY MOST OTHER POSTS OPERATE ON PRINCIPLE THAT THEY CANNOT INVITE NOMINEES OR SERIOUSLY DISCUSS PROPOSED TRAVEL WITH THEM UNTIL DEPARTMENT HAS APPROVED NOMINATION AND GRANT IS ASSURED. TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE AND WOULD ONLY INVITE EMBARRASSMENT AND POSSIBLY HARMFUL RESENTMENT FROM PERSONS FOR WHOM GRANT OR FUNDING CANNOT ULTIMATELY BE APPROVED. ON OTHER HAND, ONCE GRANTS ARE APPROVED AND INVITATIONS EXTENDED, MOST GRANTEES NEED CONSIDERABLE TIME, OFTEN SEVERAL MONTHS, TO ARRANGE ABSENCE ( INVOLVING EMPLOYERS' AND SOMETIMES GOVERNMENT'S PERMISSION, REARRANGEMENTS OF BUSY SCHEDULES, ETC) AND TAKE SUCH OTHER STEPS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO DEFINITE TRAVEL DATES.

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YET, RARE EXCEPTIONS, CU IS NOT ABLE MAKE TENTATIVE FUND

COMMITMENTS TO PERMIT SUCH PLANNING BEFORE FISCAL YEAR BEGINS.

3. IF IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY HAVE ALL VISITORS BEGIN TRAVEL  
IN FISCAL YEAR OF GRANT, CAN DEPARTMENT DEVISE PROCEDURE BY  
WHICH POSTS THAT ARE ABLE TO MAKE NOMINATIONS WELL IN ADVANCE OF  
FISCAL YEAR MIGHT BE GIVEN ADVANCE APPROVAL OF GRANTS AND  
AUTHORITY TO INVITE NOMINEES TO MAKE DEFINITE PLANS FOR TRAVEL  
SOMETIME DURING THE FISCAL YEAR THAT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN? IF NOT  
WE WOULD URGE CU TO DROP ITS RIGID TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS IN FAVOR  
OF SOME OTHER FORM OF " COMMITMENT" THAT EVERYTHING  
REASONABLE HAS BEEN DONE TO BE SURE THAT GRANT IS UTILIZED  
BEFORE ITS VALIDITY EXPIRES ( E.G., PERHAPS REQUIRING WRITTEN  
ACCEPTANCE AND STATEMENT OF TRAVEL INTENTIONS TOGETHER WITH  
MINIMUM NUMBER OF ALTERNATES).  
BOWDLER

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